

On Deck Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday

Water Polo @ Slippery
Rock
12:45 p.m.

Water Polo @
Grove City vs. Michigan
4:15 p.m.

Water Polo @
Slippery Rock vs. Indiana
8:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Altoona
12 p.m.

Baseball @ Frostburg
1 p.m.

Softball vs.
Pitt-Greensburg
1 p.m.

Track and Field @
Clarion Invitational
9 a.m.

Sunday
Men's Tennis vs.
Thiel
11 a.m.

Baseball @ Mt. Aloysius
1 p.m.

Tuesday
Softball vs. Buffalo State
3 p.m.

Water Polo vs. Mercyhurst
6 p.m.

Water Polo vs. Gannon
8:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Baseball @ Fredonia
1 p.m.

Thursday
Softball @ Fredonia
3:30 p.m.

Friday
Men's Tennis vs. Alfred
4 p.m.

Water Polo @ Wheaton
TBD

Bad weather plagues the softball team

by Ben Raymond
staff writer

With the cancellation of Thursday's game against Westminster, the Lady Lion softball team has yet to play a regular season game. With this extra time to prepare, confidence and teamwork seems to be building.

Bad weather in the form of rain and snow has kept the women's softball team off of the diamond so far this season. Frustration seems to be the word that keeps popping up when players are asked how they feel about the delay in the start of their games.

It may not be the most exciting way to start the season, but perhaps the extra downtime is a blessing in disguise.

Going from 10 games in six days to none in two weeks is a dramatic change and should be a good test as to the progress of the team.

"It's really frustrating not playing right away. Erie weather doesn't compare to Florida. For practices we're back inside the gym that doesn't even begin to compare to a real softball field," said first basemen Lindsey Stankus.

Being stuck in the gym, the team's options were limited as to what they could work on. During the games in Florida, less than stellar hitting seemed to be the big thing holding the Lady Lions back.

Over the last few weeks the women have spent a great deal of time in the batting cages. The overall feeling now seems to be one of improvement and confidence.

"We are mainly having batting practice. We really need to work on our hitting for our upcoming games. We've been hitting off of live pitchers and doing a lot of batting drills that will hopefully help us in the future," said Stankus.

"As soon as we start hitting we're going to start winning. Our defense has come a long way and we just need to get our offense going."

"I think practicing is helping a lot because we are getting extra time to polish what we needed to, like hitting," said shortstop Brittany Mays.



FILE PHOTO

The softball team is looking to pick up its first win of the season on Saturday when it hosts a doubleheader against Pitt-Greensburg. The Lady Lions opened the season with a 0-10 record.

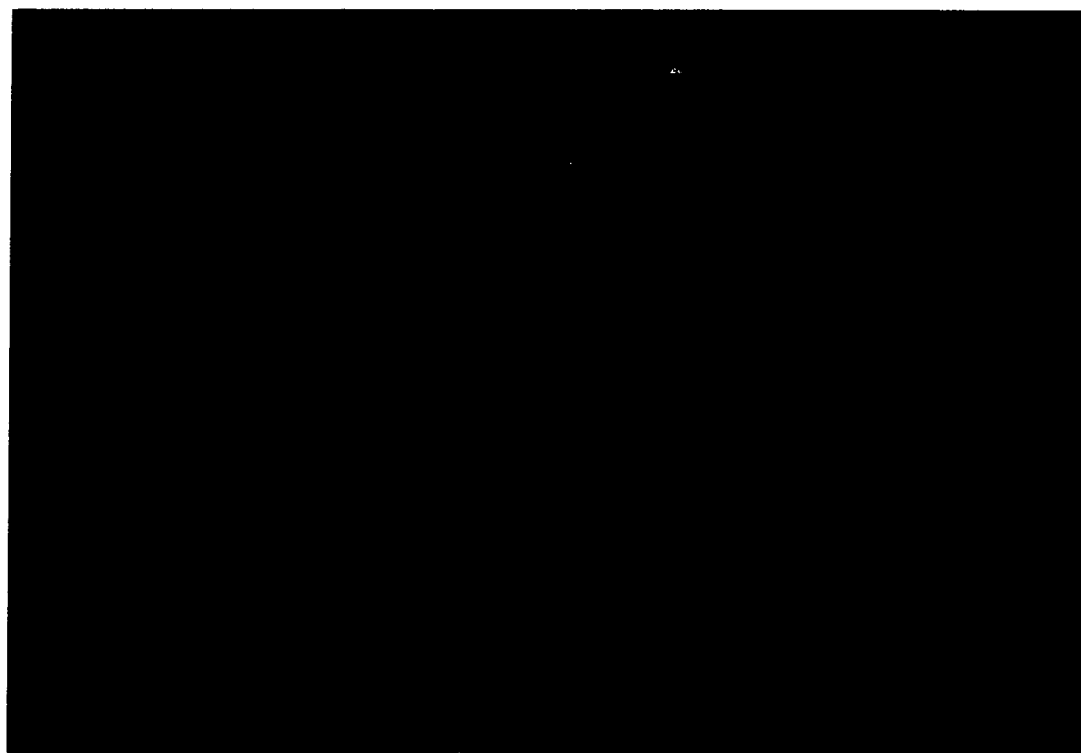
The coaches and players seem to be keeping up a very optimistic and positive attitude toward the rest of the season. With a lot of eager underclassmen there seems to be no shortage of enthusiasm on the team.

With only a handful of upperclassmen, the younger players have had to step in to a number of important positions. The players are looking to have a winning season and possibly a spot at the top of the AMCC.

The women got a chance to put together the skills they have been working on over the past two weeks on Thursday when they had the chance to actually use the field. Things seemed very upbeat at the practice as the team prepares for two home games this weekend.

The Lady Lions take on Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday and Medaille on Sunday. Both games are home and are slated to start at 1 p.m. Attendance is encouraged for what could be the start to a great season.

Women's water polo squad struggles in Behrend Invitational



FILE PHOTO

The women's water polo team finished in eighth place at the Behrend Invitational this past weekend

by Ray Immekus
staff writer

The Behrend Water Polo Invitational was held this past weekend in the Junker Center Pool. The women's team hosted the event, which drew schools from as far as Michigan and as close as Grove City College.

Eight teams in all competed in the round robin tournament. Behrend, Ottawa University, Western Michigan University and Grand Valley State University were placed together in division one. California Tech, Grove City College, Notre Dame University and Eastern Michigan University competed in division two.

Each team would play three games on Saturday, competing against each of the other three teams in their respective division.

Ottawa finished in first place in division one, posting a 3-0 record, winning by an average of eight goals in each of the three games.

Grand Valley placed second in the division with a 2-1 record, Western Michigan went 1-2, and Behrend finished winless. The Lady Lions lost by a goal to Western Michigan and played Grand Valley tight, losing only 8-5.

Division two was dominated by Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish defeated Grove City 12-0, Eastern Michigan 18-5, and beat Cal Tech by a score of 15-3. Cal Tech finished in the runner up position, with a 2-1 mark.

Grove City's only win came against Eastern

Michigan, posting a 1-2 record, and the Eagles of Eastern Michigan finished winless in the round robin round.

On Sunday, the top two teams from each division of Saturday's round robin moved on to a four team playoff for the tournament championship.

Ottawa, the No. 1 seed from division one, played Cal Tech, the No. 2 seed from division two, defeating the Beavers 12-6. In the second semifinal game, Notre Dame played the Grand Valley State Lakers, and won 11-3.

The Fighting Irish were now set to face Ottawa University in the title game. The teams went back and forth all game, and needed an extra period to determine the winner. Notre Dame eventually came out on top, 14-13.

In the third/fourth place game, Grand Valley defeated Cal Tech 11-6 to take home the third place trophy. Grove City beat Behrend and Western Michigan in the consolation bracket to secure fifth place.

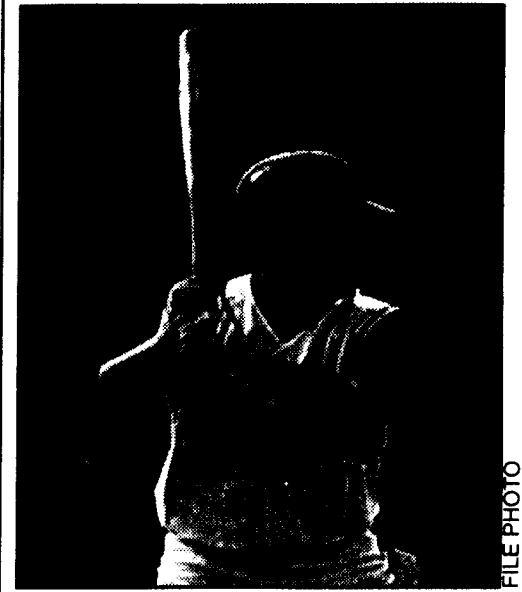
Western Michigan placed sixth, Eastern Michigan seventh, and the Lady Lions took eighth.

The Lady Lions next traveled to Slippery Rock on Tuesday night to face Grove City College.

The women lost by a 10-7 score. Senior scored three goals in the game.

Behrend is 1-12 on the season, which is a rebuilding year under first year head coach Joe Tristan.

Senior Spotlight: Tyler Wiand



FILE PHOTO

Wiand is leading the team in runs scored with 10 so far this season

by C.J. Ianini
staff writer

Name: Tyler Wiand

Semester: 8th

Major: Marketing

Hometown: Stoneboro, Pa.

Position: 3rd base

Beacon: Besides Baseball, what other hobbies do you have or like to do?

Wiand: I like to spend time with friends from college and my teammates. I enjoy the outdoors, hunting fishing, hiking. I love watersports. Wakeboarding, skiing, and swimming. Most of all, I love spending time with my family.

Beacon: Out of all your baseball seasons here at Behrend, which do you consider your favorite?

Wiand: Last year was incredible. We were very successful on the field. Playing baseball at Behrend has been a great experience. I have met some unbelievable people. I have learned a lot and have enjoyed every day that I have stepped between the lines.

Beacon: When it comes to eating on campus, Bruno's or Dobbins?

Wiand: Bruno's, because Slobbins rips ya up! Plus at Bruno's, freshman will get you the discount.

Beacon: Playing baseball in the Erie weather got to be tough, do you have any special ways that you stay warm?

Wiand: I always wear a stretch sleeve under the uniform and occasionally I will put my mitts down my pants to stay warm.

Beacon: Do you have any pre-game rituals or superstitions that you do before every game?

Wiand: I have a lot! Mostly of all I always put my uniform on the same way. I always skip over the base paths as I sprint on to the field. I always do the same routine when I am at the plate too.

Beacon: If you could go back and change one thing in your college career, what would it be?

Wiand: I wouldn't change a single thing. The people, the education, the social life and the atmosphere has been phenomenal! I do not believe anyone at this school has had as much fun as I.

Beacon: What do you consider to be the greatest establishment here in Erie?

Wiand: The greatest establishment in Erie has been the creation of my friendship with the group of people that entertain me day in, and day out.

Beacon: What's your MLB pre-season World Series pick?

Wiand: Buccos and Yanks

Beacon: In a WWE Cage catch match who would you take, Head Coach Paul Benim or Asst. Coach Mike Thompson? What would be the signature move by each contestant?

Wiand: Head Coach Paul Benim...PB's move would be the "AUTOMATIC HIT" sign to the throat and Mike Thompson's would be the tongue snap!

Beacon: How often do read the Behrend Beacon?

Wiand: Every week. I love the ridiculous police reports! I also love that they place my name and stats under "Tony Azzato." He is so hot!